



U.S. sets milestone with record for the deadliest six months of mass killings

By S. DAZIO and L. FENN

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Slain at the hands of strangers or gunned down by loved ones.

Massacred in small towns, in big cities, inside their own homes or outside in broad daylight.

This year's unrelenting bloodshed across the U.S. has led to the grimest of milestones: The deadliest six months of mass killings recorded since at least 2006.

From Jan. 1 to June 30, the nation endured 28 mass killings, all but one of which involved guns. The death toll rose just about every week, a constant cycle of violence and grief.

Six months. 181 days. 28 mass killings. 140 victims. One country.



Continued on Page 2 A warning sign is seen Sunday, April 30, 2023, outside the home where a mass shooting occurred Friday night, in Cleveland, Texas. Associated Press

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U.S. sets milestone with record for the deadliest six months of mass killings

Continued from Front

"What a ghastly milestone," said Brent Leatherwood, whose three children were in class at a private Christian school in Nashville on March 27 when a former student killed three children and three adults. "You never think your family would be a part of a statistic like that."

Leatherwood, a prominent Republican in a state that hasn't strengthened gun laws, believes something must be done to get guns out of the hands of people who might become violent. The shock of seeing the bloodshed strike so close to home has prompted him to speak out.

"You may as well say Martians have landed, right? It's hard to wrap your mind around it," he said.

A mass killing is defined as an occurrence when four or more people are slain, not including the assailant, within a 24-hour period. A database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University tracks this large-scale violence dating back to 2006. The 2023 milestone beat the previous record of 27 mass killings, which was only set in the second half of 2022. James Alan Fox, a criminology professor at Northeastern University, never imagined records like this when he began overseeing the database about five years



A law enforcement official works Sunday, April 30, 2023, in the neighborhood where a mass shooting occurred Friday night, in Cleveland, Texas.

Associated Press

ago.

"We used to say there were two to three dozen a year," Fox said. "The fact that there's 28 in half a year is a staggering statistic."

But the chaos of the first six months of 2023 doesn't automatically doom the last six months. The remainder of the year could be calmer, despite more violence over the July Fourth holiday weekend.

"Hopefully it was just a blip," said Dr. Amy Barnhorst, a psychiatrist who is the associate director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California, Davis.

"There could be fewer killings later in 2023, or this

could be part of a trend. But we won't know for sometime," she added.

Experts like Barnhorst and Fox attribute the rising bloodshed to a growing population with an increased number of guns in the U.S. Yet for all the headlines, mass killings are statistically rare and represent a fraction of the country's overall gun violence.

"We need to keep it in perspective," Fox said.

But the mass violence most often spurs attempts to reform gun laws, even if the efforts are not always successful.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, a Republican, had urged the General Assembly in

the wake of the Nashville school shooting to pass legislation keeping firearms away from people who could harm themselves or others, so-called "red flag laws," though Lee says the term is politically toxic.

Getting such a measure passed in Tennessee is an uphill climb. The Republican-led Legislature adjourned earlier this year without taking on gun control, prompting Lee to schedule a special session for August.

Leatherwood, a former executive director of the Tennessee Republican Party and now the head of the influential Southern Baptist Convention's public policy

arm, wrote a letter to lawmakers asking them to pass the governor's proposal.

Leatherwood said he doesn't want any other family to go through what his children experienced at the time of the shooting when they were in kindergarten, second grade and fourth grade. One of his kids, preparing for a recent sleepaway camp, asked whether they would be safe there.

"Our child was asking, 'Do you think that there will be a gunman that comes to this camp? Do I need to be worried about that?'" Leatherwood said.

The Nashville shooter, whose writings Leatherwood and other parents are asking a court to keep private, used three guns in the attack, including an AR-15-style rifle. It was one of at least four mass killings in the first half of 2023 involving such a weapon, according to the database.

Nearly all of the mass killings in the first half of this year, 27 of 28, involved guns. The other was a fire that killed four people in a home in Monroe, Louisiana. A 37-year-old man was arrested on arson and murder charges in connection with the March 31 deaths.

Despite the unprecedented carnage, the National Rifle Association maintains fierce opposition to regulating firearms, including AR-15-style rifles and similar weapons. □

DeSantis to become 1st GOP candidate to file for South Carolina



Republican presidential candidate and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his wife Casey, walk in the July 4th parade, Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in Merrimack, N.H.

Associated Press

By MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis plans to file his 2024 candidacy for South Carolina's Republican presidential primary when he's in the first-in-the-South voting state next week, becoming the first GOP hopeful to do so. DeSantis will file his paperwork at the state GOP headquarters in Columbia on Tuesday, his campaign told The Associated Press on Friday.

DeSantis will make his candidacy official during

his third campaign swing through South Carolina, where Republican hopefuls have been stumping for more than a year already. On Monday, he makes a stop in Tega Cay, an affluent community on Lake Wylie along the state line with North Carolina.

After he signs his candidacy paperwork, DeSantis plans to make a policy rollout in Columbia, the details of which the campaign did not immediately release. It will be DeSantis' second policy announcement, following his immigration

proposals — which call for ending birthright citizenship and finishing construction of the southern border wall — outlined during a June visit to a Texas border city. It's one of many events that will be held in Iowa in the coming weeks as voters begin to more seriously consider their options in the remaining six months until the leadoff caucuses, and the sprawling field of Republican presidential candidates works to build bases of support to challenge Trump's early lead in the field. □

Jesse Jackson to step down as head of civil rights organization Rainbow PUSH

By **GARY FIELDS and CLAIRE SAVAGE**

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson plans to step down from leading the Chicago civil rights organization Rainbow PUSH Coalition he founded in 1971, his son's congressional office said Friday.

A spokesperson for U.S. Rep. Jonathan Jackson confirmed the long-time civil rights leader would be retiring from the organization.

The elder Jackson, a civil rights leader and two-time presidential candidate, plans to announce his decision on Sunday during the organization's annual convention, Rep. Jackson told the Chicago Sun-Times.

Jonathan Jackson, an Illinois Democrat, said his father "has forever been on the scene of justice and has never stopped fighting for civil rights" and that will be "his mark upon history." The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who will turn 82 in October, has remained active in civil rights in recent years de-



The Rev. Jesse Jackson speaks to attendees at the inaugural Sunday Dinner event, hosted by the South Carolina Democratic Party's Black Caucus, Sunday, March 27, 2022, in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

spite health setbacks.

He announced in 2017 that he had begun outpatient care for Parkinson's disease two years earlier. In early 2021, he had gallbladder surgery and later that year was treated for COVID-19 including a stint at a physical therapy-focused fa-

cility. He was hospitalized again in November 2021 for a fall that caused a head injury.

Jackson, a protégé of the Rev. Martin Luther King, broke with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1971 to form Operation PUSH originally

named People United to Save Humanity a sweeping civil rights organization based on Chicago's South Side.

The organization was later renamed the Rainbow PUSH Coalition with a mission ranging from encouraging corporations to hire

more minorities to voter registration drives in communities of color. Its annual convention is set for this weekend in Chicago.

Jackson has long been a powerful voice in American politics.

Until Barack Obama's election in 2008, Jackson was the most successful Black candidate for the U.S. presidency, winning 13 primaries and caucuses for the Democratic nomination in 1988. Jackson has helped guide the modern civil rights movement on a wide variety of issues, including voting rights and education. He stood with the family of George Floyd at a memorial for the Black man murdered in 2020 by a white police officer, whose death forced a national reckoning with police brutality and racism. Jackson also participated in COVID-19 vaccination drives to battle hesitancy in Black communities. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson called Jackson "an architect of the soul of Chicago" in a statement Friday. □

Appeals court pauses order limiting Biden administration contact with social media companies

By **KEVIN MCGILL**

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal appeals court Friday temporarily paused a lower court's order limiting executive branch officials' communications with social media companies about controversial online posts.

Biden administration lawyers had asked the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans to stay the preliminary injunction issued on July 4 by U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty. Doughty himself had rejected a request to put his order on hold pending appeal.

Friday's brief 5th Circuit order put Doughty's injunction on hold "until further orders of the court." It called

for arguments in the case to be scheduled on an expedited basis.

Filed last year, the lawsuit claimed the administration, in effect, censored free speech by discussing possible regulatory action the government could take while pressuring companies to remove what it deemed misinformation. COVID-19 vaccines, legal issues involving President Joe Biden's son Hunter and election fraud allegations were among the topics spotlighted in the lawsuit.

Doughty, nominated to the federal bench by former President Donald Trump, issued an Independence Day order and accompanying reasons that covered more than 160 pages. He said the plaintiffs were likely

to win their ongoing lawsuit. His injunction blocked the Department of Health and Human Services, the FBI and multiple other government agencies and administration officials from "encouraging, pressuring, or inducing in any manner the removal, deletion, suppression, or reduction of content containing protected free speech."

Administration lawyers said the order was overly broad and vague, raising questions about what officials can say in conversations with social media companies or in public statements. They said Doughty's order posed a threat of "grave" public harm by chilling executive branch efforts to combat online misinformation.



President Joe Biden gives a thumbs up as he walks with first lady Jill Biden to board Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Friday, July 14, 2023, as they head to Camp David for the weekend.

Associated Press

Doughty rejected the administration's request for a stay on Monday, writing: "Defendants argue that the injunction should be stayed because it might interfere

with the Government's ability to continue working with social-media companies to censor Americans' core political speech on the basis of viewpoint. □

Long Island architect charged in 3 of the Gilgo Beach serial killings

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ, MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO
 Associated Press

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. (AP) — A Long Island architect was charged Friday with murder in the deaths of three of the 11 victims in a long-unsolved string of killings known as the Gilgo Beach murders after detectives pursuing a new lead say they matched DNA from a pizza he ate to genetic material found on the women's remains.

Rex Heuermann, who has lived for decades across a bay from where the remains were found, is charged with killing Melissa Barthelemy, Megan Waterman and Amber Costello. He is also considered the prime suspect in the death of a fourth woman whose body was bound and hidden in thick underbrush along a remote beach highway, authorities said. Heuermann, 59, was arrested late Thursday amid a renewed investigation that tied him to a pickup truck a witness reported seeing when one of the victims disappeared in 2010. In March, detectives tailing Heuermann recovered his DNA from pizza crust in a box that he'd discarded in a Manhattan trash can and matched it to DNA from a hair found



Crime laboratory officers arrive to the house where a suspect has been taken into custody on New York's Long Island in connection with a long-unsolved string of killings, known as the Gilgo Beach murders, Friday, July 14, 2023, in Massapequa Park, N.Y.

Associated Press

on a restraint used in the killings, authorities said. Heuermann's lawyer entered a not guilty plea on his behalf Friday in state court in Riverhead. Judge Richard Ambro ordered him jailed without bail, citing "the extreme depravity" of his alleged conduct. Heuermann's lawyer, Michael Brown, said they'd just learned about the charges Friday morning. Speaking to reporters after the arraignment, he said Heuermann told him: "I

didn't do this." Heuermann, wearing khaki pants and a gray collared shirt, did not speak in court. Heuermann lives in Massapequa Park, a community just north of South Oyster Bay and the sandy stretch known as Gilgo Beach where skeletal remains were found along a remote oceanfront highway in 2010 and 2011. Most of the victims were young women who had been sex workers. Their deaths long stumped investigators, a mystery

that fueled immense public attention and led to a 2020 Netflix film, "Lost Girls." Determining who killed them, and why, has vexed a slew of seasoned homicide detectives through several changes in police leadership. Last year, an interagency task force was formed with investigators from the FBI, as well as state and local police departments, aimed at solving the case. After linking Heuermann to the pickup truck, prosecu-

tors said investigators were able to connect him to other evidence, including the burner cellphones used to arrange meetings with the slain women, and taunting calls that a person claiming to be the killer made to one of Barthelemy's relatives using her cellphone after she disappeared in 2009. In recent months, Heuermann sought to keep tabs on the probe and "searched obsessively" on the internet for facts about the Gilgo Beach killings, including the names of women he's accused of killing, as well as podcasts and documentaries about the case, Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney said. Tierney said authorities moved to charge Heuermann now with three of the killings "out of concern for this defendant fleeing and the danger to the community." They are continuing to work toward charging him in the death of a fourth Gilgo victim, Maureen Brainard-Barnes. Until his arrest, Heuermann continued to use burner phones, patronize sex workers and search the internet for sadistic materials, including sexually exploitive images of children, Tierney said. He also has access to 92 handguns, the prosecutor said.



Bette Zirkelbach, left, and Richie Moretti, right, watch as "Marcia," a juvenile green sea turtle, is released off the Florida Keys, Friday, July 14, 2023, at Sombrero Beach in Marathon, Fla.

Associated Press

MARATHON, Fla. (AP) — A juvenile green sea turtle rehabilitated at the Florida

Keys-based Turtle Hospital was fitted with a satellite-tracking transmitter and

Rehabilitated sea turtle released in Florida Keys

released Friday to join an online race that follows long-distance migrations of sea turtles. The Tour de Turtles, now in its 16th year, is organized annually by the Sea Turtle Conservancy. Beginning Aug. 1, the group will track a dozen sea turtles released from beaches in Florida and several Caribbean islands. "The Tour de Turtles is raising awareness about sea turtles and the threats to their survival," Sea Turtle Conservancy senior research biologist Dr. Dan Evans said. "We are

also learning about where they're going, where they're finding food, and what the possible threats to those areas are." The young green sea turtle named Marcia, who was found floating off the Middle Keys in March, suffered from positive buoyancy disorder. The condition leaves sea turtles unable to dive down for food. Causes include internal infection, gastrointestinal tract obstruction and spinal or lung injuries, sometimes caused by boat strikes. Officials at the Turtle Hos-

pital treated Marcia, who weighs about 50 pounds (23 kilograms), with broad-spectrum antibiotics, fluids, vitamins and a diet of greens and mixed seafood. "It's really important to protect sea turtles like Marcia," Turtle Hospital general manager Bette Zirkelbach said. "This tracking and the information it brings to scientists through Tour de Turtles is going to help this species survive." Green sea turtles are classified as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

Guatemala's corruption is thrust into international spotlight

By SONIA PÉREZ D. and
CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

The Guatemalan government's clumsy interference with its presidential election has turned a global spotlight on rampant corruption that previously had received only limited international attention.

President Alejandro Giammattei was deeply unpopular at home, but other than occasional reprobation from the United States and Europe, had managed to consolidate his control of the justice system, completely upending a long-standing anti-corruption campaign in the country with little consequence.

The June 25 presidential election may have changed all that. In the days leading up to the vote, it appeared there would be a runoff between a small number of right and extreme right candidates, including Giammattei allies. But with a large number of null votes, many cast in protest, and a campaign that resonated especially with young Guatemalans, progressive candidate Bernardo Arévalo placed second, ensuring his participation in an Aug. 20 runoff.

Suddenly, it seemed there was a real possibility of choice for Guatemalans who want to change the status quo. That stunned the powers that be, who



Bernardo Arévalo, presidential candidate with the Seed Movement party, and running mate Karin Herrera greet their followers outside Guatemala's Attorney General's office building in Guatemala City, Thursday, July 13, 2023.

Associated Press

quickly reacted.

"I think that fear clouded him, blinded him," Katya Salazar, executive director of the Due Process Foundation, said of Giammattei. She added that Arévalo's surprise support was "a demonstration of the dissatisfaction" in the Central American country.

"I think he (Giammattei) thought that it would be the same as always," she said. Late Wednesday, a federal prosecutor announced that Arévalo's party, the Seed Movement, had been suspended for allegedly violating election

laws. Prosecutors followed up on Thursday morning by raiding the offices of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal just hours after it certified the election results that put Arévalo in the runoff.

On Friday, the Attorney General's Office said in a statement that it was carrying out its duty to enforce the country's laws and not trying to interfere with the second round of voting or keep any candidate from participating in the runoff. It said the suspension of the Seed Movement happened after a year of investigation sparked by a com-

plaint from a citizen in May 2022 about being improperly included among the signatures the party gathered to form. The signature drive would have taken place in 2018, according to the Seed Movement. The Attorney General's Office said its investigation would continue.

The government's actions have triggered a domestic and international uproar. In addition to statements of concern from the United States, European Union and Organization of American States, criticism came from other Latin American

governments as well as Guatemala's most powerful private business association.

Even Arévalo's runoff opponent, conservative former first lady Sandra Torres, joined in, announcing that she would suspend her campaign activities because the competition was uneven while authorities pursued the Seed Movement. Torres' UNE party has been a key force in allowing Giammattei to advance his legislative agenda, but it appeared she felt the attack on the Seed party could undermine her own candidacy.

"We want to demonstrate our solidarity with the voters of the Seed party and also with those who came out to vote," she said. "As a candidate, I want to compete under equal conditions."

Not long after that, the Constitutional Court, the country's highest tribunal, provided another blow to the Giammattei administration, granting the Seed Movement's request for a preliminary injunction against its suspension. That quickly, if temporarily, lowered tensions.

Giammattei, who was barred by law from seeking reelection, kept out of sight. His office issued a statement saying it respects the separation of powers and would not be involved in any judicial processes. □

Dutch voters will go to the polls on Nov. 22 after the fall of Mark Rutte's coalition

THE HAGUE, Netherlands
(AP) —

Dutch voters will go to the polls on in an early general election on Nov. 22, the caretaker government announced Friday, a week after Prime Minister Mark Rutte's four-party coalition quit over its failure to agree a package of measures to rein in migration.

The vote for the 150 seats in the lower chamber of parliament will usher in a new generation of leaders af-

ter key members of Rutte's fourth governing coalition announced they would leave politics.

Rutte, the Netherlands' longest-serving premier, signalled the end of an era when he said Monday he would leave politics once a new coalition has been installed after the elections. That is a process that can take months of negotiations between potential coalition members.

Rutte was followed by Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra and Finance Minister Sigrid Kaag, once tipped as a potential first ever female prime minister of the Netherlands.

Kaag said this week she was leaving politics because of the impact on her family of repeated threats she has received during her time in office. □



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte sits in a car as he leaves Palace Huis ten Bosch in The Hague, Netherlands, Saturday, July 8, 2023 after he informed King Willem-Alexander that his coalition government has resigned.

Associated Press

U.N. chief given 30 days to come up with options to fight Haiti's armed gangs

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council asked the secretary-general on Friday to come up with options to help combat Haiti's armed gangs, including a possible U.N. peacekeeping force and a non-U.N. multinational force.

A resolution adopted unanimously by the council asks U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to report back on "a full range" of options within 30 days to improve the security situation, including additional training for the Haitian National Police and providing support to combat illegal arms trafficking to the impoverished Caribbean nation. It also authorizes up to 70 U.N. police and corrections advisers to scale up support and training for Haiti's understaffed and underfunded national police force. And it "encourages" countries, especially in the Caribbean region, to respond to appeals from Haiti's prime minister and from Guterres for the deployment of an international specialized force.

Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry sent an urgent appeal last October for "the immediate deployment of



A girl walks through a ravine filled with garbage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, July 13, 2023.
 Associated Press

a specialized armed force, in sufficient quantity" to stop the gangs. However, more than eight months later no country has stepped up to lead such a force. Guterres, who visited Haiti earlier this month, called last week for a robust international force to help the Haitian National Police "defeat and dismantle the gangs."

He said the estimate by the U.N. independent expert for Haiti, William O'Neill, that up to 2,000 additional

anti-gang police officers are needed is no exaggeration. O'Neill, who concluded a 10-day trip to Haiti this month, is an American lawyer who has been working on Haiti for over 30 years and helped establish the Haitian National Police in 1995.

The gangs have grown in power since the July 7, 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and are now estimated to control up to 80% of the capital. The surge in killings, rapes

and kidnappings has led to a violent uprising by civilian vigilante groups.

Compounding the gang warfare is the country's political crisis: Haiti was stripped of all democratically elected institutions when the terms of the country's remaining 10 senators expired in early January.

The resolution, co-sponsored by the United States and Ecuador, "strongly urges" all countries to prohibit the supply, sale or transfer

of weapons to anyone supporting gang violence and criminal activities.

It reiterates the need for all Haitians, with support from the U.N. political mission known as BINUH, to establish "a Haitian-led, Haitian-owned political process to permit the organization of free, fair and credible legislative and presidential elections." And it calls on the Haitians "to urgently reach an agreement on a sustainable, time-bound and commonly accepted roadmap for elections."

The resolution extends BINUH's mandate until July 15, 2024, and also encourages the mission "to explore options to enhance the Haitian criminal justice sector in order to fight impunity."

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield called the resolution an important step to help the Haitian people shape their future and restore democratic order.

But she said, "we must do more," and urged all 15 council members to join the U.S. in working with BINUH, the Haitian government and the international community to "help the Haitian people secure a more just and peaceful future." □

China accuses U.S. of militarizing space following protest

BEIJING (AP) — Amid a freeze in military-to-military contacts, China is accusing the United States of mili-

tarizing outer space, a day after it protested the passage of a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon anti-submarine

aircraft through the Taiwan Strait.

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Col. Tan Ke-fei said on Friday that U.S. actions, including the establishment of the Space Force in 2019 as the newest branch of the military, have "had a great negative impact on space security and global strategic stability."

"In recent years, the United States has accelerated the militarization of space," Tan said. "I would like to reiterate here that China adheres to the peaceful use of space, firmly opposes the weaponization and the making of space into a battlefield, and opposes

any form of arms race in space."

The ministry said that Tan was responding to recent concerns expressed by Space Force leaders over China's rising capabilities, calling that "classic cognitive dissonance." China's advances in space include its own orbiting space station and plans for a crewed lunar mission. In 2007, it faced international condemnation after using a missile to blow up one of its defunct weather satellites, leaving a field of debris that continues to threaten other objects in orbit.

While the U.S. has sent officials to Beijing including

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, ties remain at a historic low. China has pointedly refused to re-establish contact between the two militaries, possibly as a protest against U.S. sales of defensive weaponry to Taiwan and sanctions against Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu.

Although it is recognized as international waters and airspace and functions as a crucial route for international trade, China continues to claim a proprietary role over the Taiwan Strait that separates the mainland from the self-governing island democracy. □



A soldier wears a U.S. Space Force uniform during a ceremony for U.S. Air Force airmen transitioning to U.S. Space Force guardian designations at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Feb. 12, 2021.
 Associated Press

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and

most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker



braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began

to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were

pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com



ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multi-

media installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural

Create museum memories

sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restora-

tion of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban

Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

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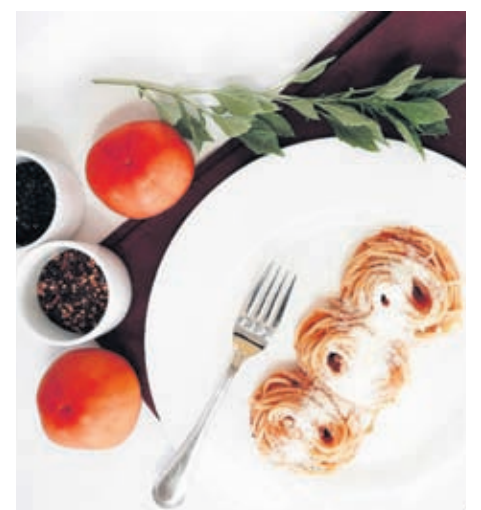
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Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden

from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can

respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis. Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐

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Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps



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The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.



to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, hand-crafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken

& Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years

Episode 21 The Bay at Savaneta

There are traditions enough and to spare about Aruba's history. According to one of them, there is supposed to have been a Commander Jahrman, who was so cruel as to force the native arubans to carry cactuses, in the manner of guns, on their naked shoulders. One has to admit that this does not seem pleasant to the skin. But the people are supposed to have tied Jahrman to a horse and rider perishing there. Another account known is that they put Jahrman under a spell so that made him jump on his horse of his own will and spurred into the sea with the same result. The bay is alleged to have been called Commanders' Bay ever since. The name Sabaneta did not originate before the latter part of the previous century.

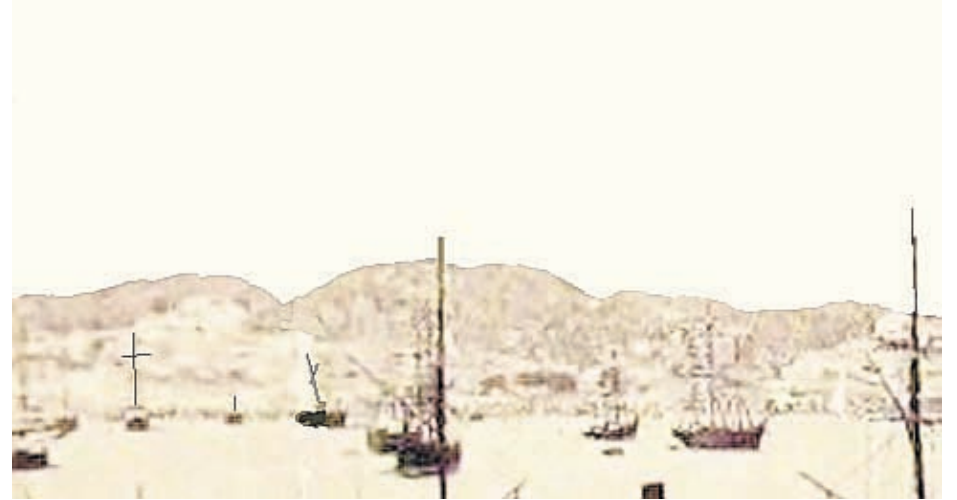
That the natives had gotten rid of a certain man on horseback at this spot would not be a surprise. However that this event gave the bay its name is totally unfounded. The bay got its name from the Commanders who had their residence there. The thing is that the story coincidentally matches the name in Papiamentu which meant, "Commander go a way". The Commanders lived in the only stone house, known at that time, to be found on Aruba.

Old documents quoted historians saying that no Commander Jahrman is known. Evidently he means that no Commander Jahrman is known from the time the commander settled on the bay. In 1837 Aruba does get a Commander Jacobus Jarman, without h, but then the capital city of Oranjestad already exists. This Jarman has no connection with Commanders' Bay.

This bay did not receive its name because of a commander being chased into the water there, but because of the fact that the commanders were living on its shore until the close of the eighteenth century.

Historical evidence about the man-handling or violent death of Aruba's governors is in abeyance. But it is an incontrovertible historical fact that the chiefs of our island used to live for centuries before the colonial era on this southern coast. Commanders' Bay, consequently became the neighbourhood that is now called Sabaneta, for at least a some centuries. For proof we appeal to traditions, it is true, but only to be confirmed by official documents.

In a manuscript by Father H.J.de Vries from 1853 the following may be read: "On Commanders' Bay, situated at a three hours' distance east of the Playa, that later became Oranjestad. There stood but one stone house: the commander's; in the wilderness one



still encounters masoned graves, in a state of decay, of him and his family." This time the Rev. Bosch is justified in noting down about 1825 another piece of information which he received by word of mouth from the Native Arubans: "Formerly the commander and his household used to live on Commanders' Bay, which still bear his title. It is situated a few miles mere eastward. They only mark of there having been once on its shore the principal residence of the island I found to be some graves, masoned round and lying close together, which, according to the names and dates inscribed, appeared to be a centuries old."

There's one document removing the last vestige of doubt. In the Public Record Office, Letters and Documents relating to Curacao, there is in the volume Protocols of 1727, under No. 112, a sworn declaration by Paulus Printz, manager of the Aruban mountain-workings

(mines), and Wouter Droncker and Isaac van den Woestijne, master and boatswain of the schooner Elizabeth & Martha, in which they depose that their ship was seized in Aruba roads by two Spanish vessels, The Young Balthasar and the Colebra.

From this document of 1727, which will later be of importance in another connection, we quote the following particulars: The last two witnesses affirm upon oath: "that they were sent to Aruba by order of His Honour the Director to fetch from there the manager of the mountain-works, Mr. Paulus Printz, together with the materials and slaves of the Honourable Company, and to transport the necessary victuals to the above island", and that, while they were there, "on the 16th of July there arrive off Commanders' Harbour two Spanish privateers," etc.etc. After having related divers particulars one of the witnesses deposed as follows: "The Spanish captains forced the commander to send some one to his house to fetch the letters which he had received from His Honour the Governor of Curacao, and to deliver them up to them intact, the which was done"

Source; Island Insight column by Etnia Nativa.



History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fisherman is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants. As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time. The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.



Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds. Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. They have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home. The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



CROSSWORD

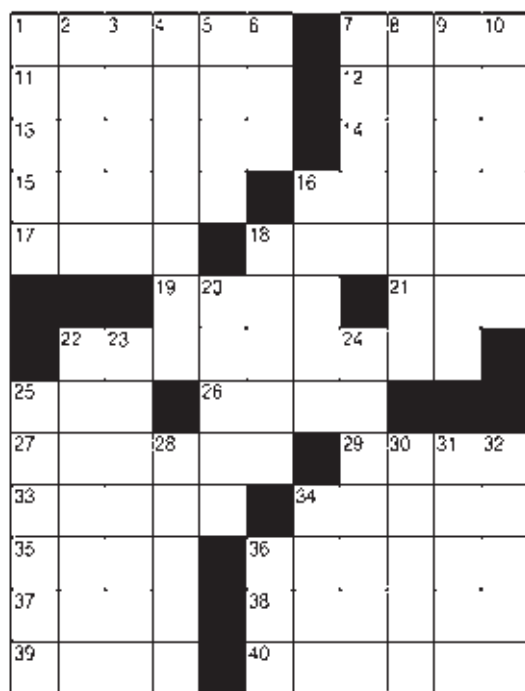
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Nautilus
 - 1 Downhill captain course
 - 7 Suit piece nervous
 - 11 Asian temple
 - 39 Spotted
 - 40 "Citizen Kane" creator
 - 13 "Hold on ..."



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 14 Sports figure
 - 15 Walking aids
 - 16 Singer Bonnie
 - 17 Young foxes
 - 18 Save
 - 19 Altar exchange
 - 21 Bungle
 - 22 Virtual reality space
 - 25 Receipt line
 - 26 Dole out
 - 27 Buck topper
 - 29 Rainbow maker
 - 33 Does kitchen work
 - 34 Cowboy contest
 - 35 Article
 - 36 Muskrat, e.g.



7-15

AXYDI BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

M UVZ'R BWID NDR NDDIDP:

M BWID GBVXD QDZZDXP

VA MHMRWRMVZ. — GBVVNM

EVXULDHE

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HEAR AND I FORGET. I SEE AND I REMEMBER. I DO AND I UNDERSTAND. — SOURCE OBSCURE

FTC investigating ChatGPT creator OpenAI over consumer protection issues

By DAVID HAMILTON
AP Business Writer

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has launched an investigation into ChatGPT creator OpenAI and whether the artificial intelligence company violated consumer protection laws by scraping public data and publishing false information through its chatbot. The agency sent OpenAI a 20-page letter requesting detailed information on its AI technology, products, customers, privacy safeguards and data security arrangements. An FTC spokesperson had no comment on the investigation, which was first reported by The Washington Post on Thursday. The FTC document the Post published told OpenAI that the agency was investigating whether it has "engaged in unfair or deceptive privacy or data security practices" or practices



The OpenAI logo is seen on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen displaying output from ChatGPT, March 21, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

arming consumers. OpenAI founder Sam Altman tweeted disappointment that the investigation was disclosed in a "leak," noting that would "not help build trust," but added that the company will work with the FTC. "It's super important to us that our technology is safe and pro-consumer, and we are confident we follow the law," he wrote. "We protect user privacy

and design our systems to learn about the world, not private individuals." OpenAI has faced scrutiny elsewhere. Italian regulators temporarily blocked ChatGPT over privacy concerns, and privacy watchdogs in France, Spain, Ireland and Canada also are paying closer attention, including some that have launched investigations after receiving complaints. □

China's Shein hit with lawsuit citing RICO violations

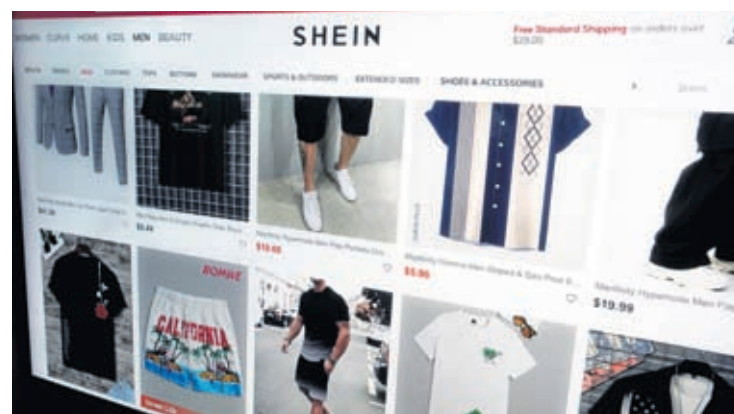
By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

China's fast fashion retailer Shein is facing a lawsuit that

claims the clothing maker's copyright infringement is so aggressive, it amounts to racketeering.

The filing this week claims that Shein is in violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, better known as RICO, a law originally crafted to prosecute organized crime.

"Shein has grown rich by committing individual infringements over and over again, as part of a long and continuous pattern of racketeering, which shows no sign of abating," the filing says. In an organized effort to create as many as 6,000 new items per day, Shein uses a "byzantine shell game of a corporate structure" to rip off designers, a coordinated illegal operation that can best be combated through the use of RICO statutes, according to the lawsuit. □



A page from the Shein website is shown in this photo, in New York, Friday, June 23, 2023.

Associated Press

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24/7

Australia is the first country to let patients be prescribed psychedelics



Artwork on display is seen at the Psychedelic Science conference in the Colorado Convention Center Wednesday, June 21, 2023, in Denver.

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia is now the first country to allow psychiatrists to prescribe certain psychedelic substances to patients with depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. Beginning Saturday, Australian physicians can prescribe doses of MDMA, also known as ecstasy, for PTSD. Psilocybin, the psychoactive ingredient in psychedelic mushrooms, can be given to people who have hard-to-treat depression. The country put the two drugs on the list of approved medicines by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Scientists in Australia were surprised by the move, which was announced in February but took effect

July 1. One scientist said it puts Australia "at the forefront of research in this field." Chris Langmead, deputy director of the Neuromedicines Discovery Centre at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, said there have been very few advancements on treatment of persistent mental health issues in the last 50 years. The growing cultural acceptance has led two U.S. states to approve measures for their use: Oregon was the first to legalize the adult use of psilocybin, and Colorado's voters decriminalized psilocybin in 2022. Days ago, President Joe Biden's youngest brother said in a radio interview that the president has

been "very open-minded" in conversations the two have had about the benefits of psychedelics as a form of medical treatment. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration designated psilocybin as a "breakthrough therapy" in 2018, a label that's designed to speed the development

and review of drugs to treat a serious condition. Psychedelics researchers have benefited from federal grants, including Johns Hopkins, and the FDA released draft guidance late last month for researchers designing clinical trials testing psychedelic drugs as potential treatments for a variety of medical conditions. □



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Kwiatkowski wins mountaintop stage, Pogacar cuts into Vingegaard's lead

LE GRAND COLOMBIER, France (AP) — Little by little,

Tadej Pogacar is making up for the time lost.

The two-time Tour de France champion from Slovenia further cut into Jonas Vingegaard's lead with a sudden acceleration near the finish of a long and brutal ascent concluding Friday's Stage 13.

"Even if we didn't get the stage win, it was still a victory in the battle for the yellow jersey," Pogacar said.

Former world champion Michal Kwiatkowski soloed to the top of the Grand Colombier mountain to claim a second career Tour stage win. Kwiatkowski, a seasoned veteran with the Ineos Grenadiers team, was part of an early breakaway and went solo about 11 kilometers from the daunting Jura mountaintop finish.

"It was a crazy experience," Kwiatkowski said. "When I entered the breakaway, I thought this is just a free ticket to maybe the bottom of the climb."

With Vingegaard and Pogacar watching each other closely until the very end, Kwiatkowski managed to stay away.

But Pogacar was the fastest on the ascent he mastered three years ago en route to his first Tour win.

Well shepherded by his UAE Team Emirates teammates,



Poland's Michal Kwiatkowski crosses the finish line to win the thirteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 138 kilometers (86 miles) with start in Chatillon-sur-Chalaronne and finish on Grand Colombier pass, France, Friday, July 14, 2023.

Pogacar did not attack until the last 500 meters of the 17.4-kilometer-long ascent, yet managed to gain some precious time.

Pogacar crossed the line in third position behind Kwiatkowski and Maximilian Gilg, four seconds ahead of Vingegaard. He was awarded a time bonus of four seconds for his third-place finish to cut Vingegaard's overall lead to just nine seconds ahead of two big mountain stages in the Alps this weekend before Monday's second

rest day.

"The Tour is still long and we are in a good situation," Pogacar added. "We are looking at this kind of opportunities to take back some seconds."

It was a really good team performance. Everybody can take a lot of confidence and motivation from today."

Jai Hindley remained third overall, 2 minutes, 51 seconds behind Vingegaard. Since he lost more than one minute on the Col de Marie Blanque during Stage 5, Po-

gacar has been on the offensive to put himself back in contention for a third Tour win. Pogacar, who was dethroned by Vingegaard last summer, claimed a 10th career stage after dropping the reigning champion in the Pyrenees then had the upper hand in the Puy de Dome climb.

Vingegaard said he was not "frustrated at all," and glad to have successfully defended the yellow jersey.

"Our plan was to let the breakaway win the stage

and that's what happened," Vingegaard said. "Today's stage didn't suit me really with this final climb only, so I'm happy to have limited the losses. I'm not anxious."

Friday's first attack took place immediately after the start of the 138-kilometer (86-mile) trek, with a pair of Lotto-Dstny riders trying to jump out of the pack. The peloton quickly reeled them in.

There were more unsuccessful moves until a group of 19 riders including Kwiatkowski managed a break on the flat roads leading to the mid-stage intermediate sprint. They were kept on a tight leash by the big teams, with Pogacar's teammates riding at the front. Sprinter Caleb Ewan, a five-time stage winner at the Tour, struggled at the back and abandoned.

The leading group worked well together, though, and 16 men managed to reach the foot of the Grand Colombier with a decent gap of less than four minutes to the bunch.

"They just let too many guys in the front and I just found probably the best legs I ever had in my life," said Kwiatkowski, a two-time winner of the one-day classic Amstel Gold Race and the 2017 winner of Milan San Remo. □

Ex-NBA star Dwyane Wade to join WNBA's Chicago Sky ownership group



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade signs autographs before an NBA basketball game against the Memphis Grizzlies on Friday, Dec. 14, 2018, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Dwyane Wade is joining the Chicago Sky ownership group, becoming the latest high-profile figure to invest in the WNBA.

Wade will invest in his hometown team once the league's Board of Governors approves the sale.

The Chicago Sky sold a roughly 10% stake in the team to a group that included Chicago Cubs co-owner Laura Ricketts last month.

"I think D-Wade joining the organization is a huge milestone for us," Sky star Kahleah Copper said.

"Having a former player who has done it at the highest level is big time."

The three-time NBA champion confirmed on Twitter that he was investing in the team. ESPN was the first to report the news.

"It's an incredible feeling being on this side of history. To see growth, on the business side, for something that I've been passionate about my whole life is an amazing feeling. There are amazing things happening in the WNBA. It's official! This is for the home team—literally," he wrote on the social media site.

Wade, who retired from the NBA in 2019, also joined ownership groups for the Utah Jazz and Real Salt Lake of the MLS since retiring. □

Djokovic and Alcaraz will meet in the Wimbledon final

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— This was the moment. If Novak Djokovic was going to be stopped in the Wimbledon semifinals, if his much younger and harder-hitting opponent, Jannik Sinner, was going to turn things around Friday, the monumental comeback required would need to start immediately.

Djokovic knew it. Sinner knew it. The 15,000 or so Centre Court spectators knew it.

After taking the first two sets, Djokovic trailed 5-4 in the third, and a flubbed forehand made the game score 15-40 as he served. Two chances for Sinner to finally break.

Two chances for him to actually take a set. Djokovic hit a fault, which drew some sounds of approval from the stands. Djokovic sarcastically used his racket and the ball to applaud the noise-makers, then flashed a thumbs up.

He can back up any such bravado.

Djokovic simply does not lose at the All England Club lately. Or at any Grand Slam tournament, for that matter.

So he calmly collected the next four points to claim that game, looked toward the crowd and mockingly pretended to wipe away a tear. Twenty minutes later, the match was over, and the 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (4) victory over Sinner allowed Djokovic to close in on a record-tying eighth title at Wimbledon and fifth in a row.

"The third set could have gone his way," said Djokovic, who will meet No. 1-ranked Carlos Alcaraz for the trophy on Sunday. "It was really, really, just a lot of pressure."

Alcaraz showed off every bit of his many talents, including winning 17 of 20 points when he serve-and-volleyed, while beating No. 3 Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 on Friday to make his way to his first final at the



Serbia's Novak Djokovic lays on the court after slipping against Italy's Jannik Sinner in a men's singles semifinal match on day twelve of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Friday, July 14, 2023.

grass-court major tournament.

While Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia, is pursuing a 24th Grand Slam singles championship, Alcaraz, a 20-year-old from Spain, seeks his second after winning the U.S. Open last September.

"What can I say? Everybody knows the legend he is," Alcaraz said about Djokovic.

"It's going to be really, really difficult. But I will fight. ... I will believe in myself, I will believe that I can beat him here."

No one has managed to beat Djokovic at Wimbledon since 2017. And no one has managed to beat him at Centre Court since 2013.

Against Sinner, Djokovic repeatedly served himself out of potential trouble, saving all six break points he faced, to reach his ninth final at the All England Club. It's also his 35th final at all Grand Slam tournaments, more than any man or woman in tennis history.

As great as he is as a returner, as superb as his defense is over and over, he would sprint and lean

and stretch to get to a ball that extended a point until Sinner made a mistake. Djokovic possesses a serve that might be the part of his game he's improved the most over his career.

That showed Friday, and it's showed throughout this fortnight: In his half-dozen matches during the tournament, Djokovic has won 100 of his 103 service games and saved 16 of 19 break points.

"In the pressure moments, he was playing very good. Not missing," Sinner said. "That's him."

The age gap between Djokovic and Sinner, 21, was the largest between Wimbledon men's semifinalists in the Open era, which began in 1968. Djokovic would be the oldest champion at Wimbledon since professionals were first allowed to compete that year.

"I feel 36 is the new 26, I guess," Djokovic said. "It feels good."

Sinner is the one who hit serves at up to 132 mph and pounded one fault that clanged against the speed readout board in a corner of the arena with

such force it sounded as if he might have broken the thing.

Of more concern to Sinner: It was followed by another fault in a service game he dropped to trail 2-1 in the second set.

In truth, talented as Sinner is, he didn't really generate any more frustration for Djokovic than chair umpire Richard Haigh did.

In one game in which Djokovic would face and erase a break point, he argued to no avail after forfeiting a point because Haigh called him for hindrance for letting out a lengthy yell while the ball was still in play. Moments later, Haigh issued Djokovic a warning for letting the serve-clock expire.

"It was a very stressful game for me to survive and to kind of storm through. It was super important," said Djokovic, who thought the hindrance call was incorrect after seeing a replay and Haigh needed to "recognize the moment a little bit more" instead of issuing the time warning. "Luckily for me, I stayed calm."

Indeed he did, continuing his bid to join Roger Federer

as the only men to have won eight singles trophies at Wimbledon. Martina Navratilova won the women's championship nine times.

Djokovic got major title No. 22 at the Australian Open in January, and No. 23 at the French Open in June — his Wimbledon shoes have a small "23" stamped on the side — after getting past Alcaraz in the semifinals at Roland Garros.

If Djokovic wins Sunday, he will head to the U.S. Open in August with a chance at the first calendar-year Grand Slam by a man since Rod Laver in 1969.

With the main stadium's retractable roof shut because of rain outdoors, the grass was slick and slippery during Djokovic vs. Sinner. Sinner slipped on the very first point; Djokovic on the third. And it kept happening to both. They repeatedly smacked the soles of their shoes with their rackets to try to remove grass and dirt that got stuck in there.

Taking on Djokovic represented a significant rise in the level of competition for Sinner. Until Friday, not only had he not faced a single seeded player, but he had gone up against opponents with these rankings: 79th, 85th, 98th and 111th. No one in the half-century history of computerized tennis rankings men's and women's has spent more weeks at No. 1 than Djokovic, who currently is No. 2. But that number does not reflect his form at the moment.

This was Djokovic's 46th major semifinal and Sinner's first, and that seemed obvious at the most crucial junctures.

Sinner was quite close to reaching that stage a year ago at the All England Club: He took a two-set lead in the quarterfinals against Djokovic, who came all the way back to win in five.

That sort of work was not required on this afternoon. Djokovic never let it come to that. □

Associated Press

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